

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group, in this order from an object,

wherein said negative first lens group comprises a negative meniscus lens element having the convex surface facing toward said object, and said positive third lens group comprises a positive biconvex lens element;

wherein upon zooming from the short focal length extremity to the long focal length extremity, at least said negative first lens group and said positive second lens group are moved;

wherein a diaphragm is provided on the object side of said positive second lens group, and moves integrally therewith; and

wherein said zoom lens system satisfies the following conditions:

$$0.25 < R1/D1 < 0.55$$

$$0.25 < f2/TL < 0.45$$

wherein

R1 designates the radius of curvature of the image-side surface of said negative meniscus lens element, which constitutes said negative first lens group;

D1 designates the distance between said negative first lens group and said positive second lens group at the short focal length extremity;

f2 designates the focal length of said positive second lens group; and

TL designates the distance along the optical axis from the most object-side surface of said negative first lens group to the most image-side surface of said positive third lens group, at the short focal length extremity.